

# PHOTOGRAPHY: Writing with Light

Karen Halverson

# Goals for the Day

## INCREASE AWARENESS OF:

- Basic characteristics of the photograph
- Photographic content and form
- Photographic expression
- Relationship between photographs and text



Karen  
Halverson

# Content and Form

## CONTENT

- “Reality”
- Moment in time
- Cognitive response
- Cultural context

## FORM

- 2-D picture plane
- Composition
- Intuitive response
- Universal

# How Content and Form Communicate

- What do you see?
- What do you feel?
- Where does your eye go?
- What does the photograph mean?



Oriana Elicabe

# Content and form made simple:

- What to include and what to exclude
- Where to put the camera

# Content: Different Responses



Photographer Unknown  
Diane Arbus



Jon Pfahl  
Joel Meyerowitz



# Form:

## 2-D Visual Elements

- The frame
- Space
- Form
- Line
- Tonality
- Color
- Composition
- Vantage point
- Contrast and affinity



# The Frame



Walker Evans

- Aspect ratio
- Inclusion & exclusion
- Open and closed frame
- Placing your “subject”
- Seeing the whole frame

# Aspect Ratios



Joanne Mulberg  
Constantine Manos



Karen Halverson

# Organizing the Frame



William Eggleston  
Edward Burtynsky



Vincent Laforet, The New York Times



# Space



Sternfeld

Joel

- 2-D picture plane
- Vantage point
- Foreground/  
background
- Perspective
- Illusion of Depth
- Scale



# Vantage Point: Camera Angle



Joel Meyerowitz

Leibovitz



Annie



Todd Eberle  
Bresson



Henri Cartier-

# Foreground/Background



Karen Halverson



Edward Burtynsky



Robert Dawson



James Hill, The New York T

# Perspective



Andreas Feininger

Art Kane



Telephoto lens flattens space

Wide angle lens expands  
space



# Flatness vs. Depth



Stephen Shore  
Cartier-Bresson



Henri



Edward Burtynsky



Len Jenshel



# Scale



Richard Misrach

# Focus: Depth of Field



- Distance within which things are sharp
- Shallow or deep
- Affected by lens aperture and where focused

# Basic Forms



Jon Pfahl



Edward Weston



Clifford Otto

# Lines



Joel Meyerowitz  
Burtynsky



Edward



John Sexton  
Len Jenshel



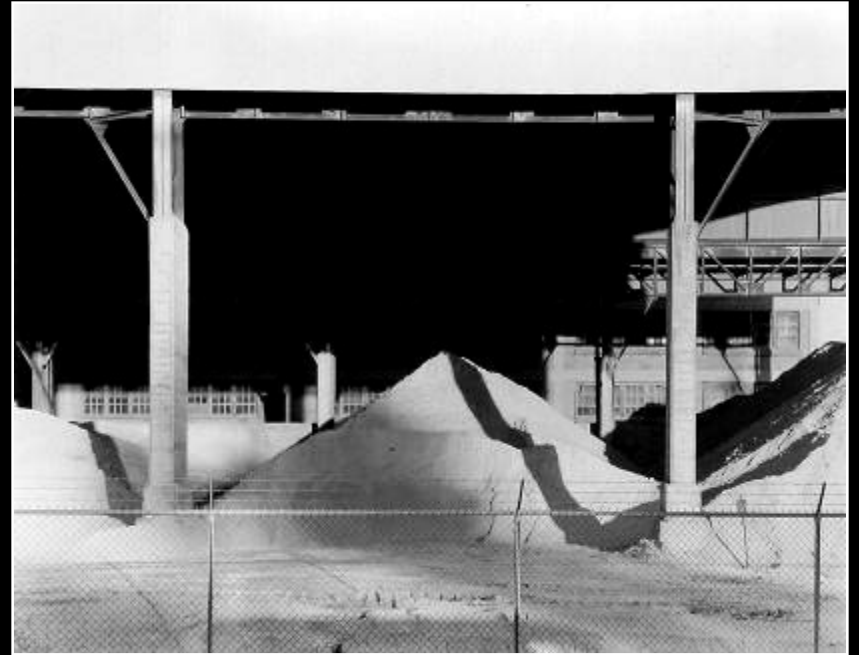


# Color vs. Black and White



Joel Sternfeld  
Joel Sternfeld

and again...

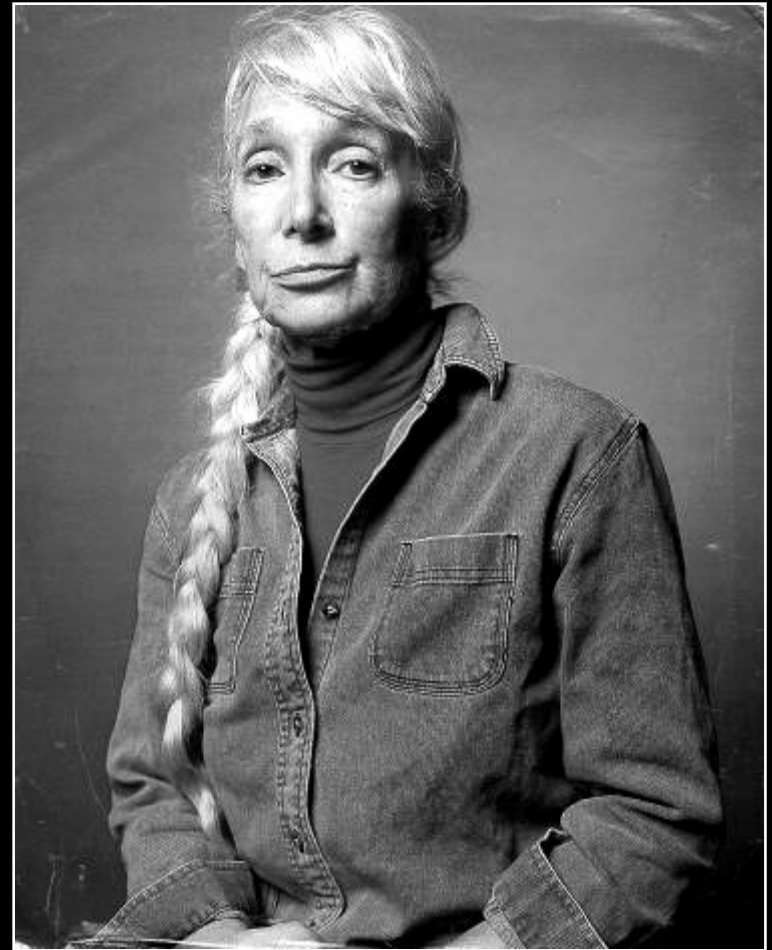


Stephen Johnson

# Once more...



Annie Leibovitz



Annie Leib

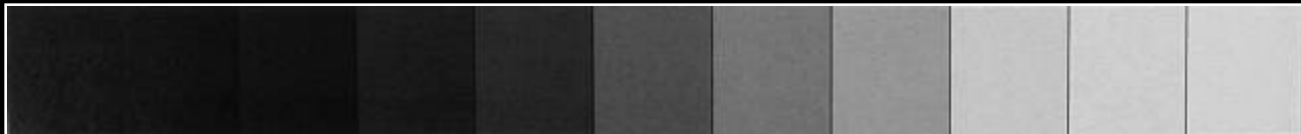
# Tonality: ranging from light to dark



Irving Penn

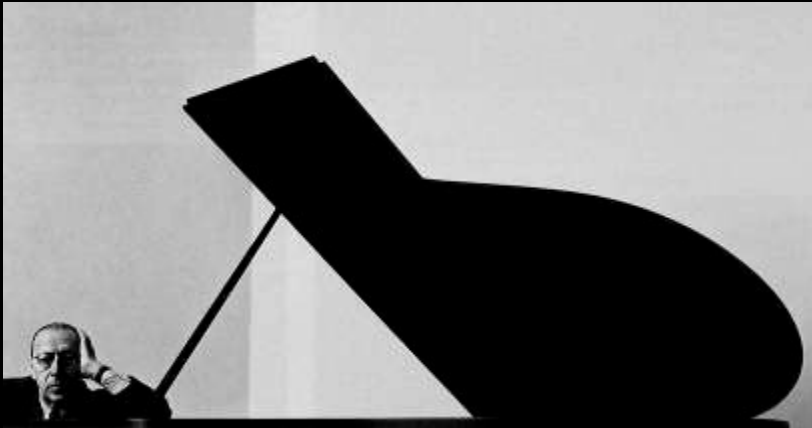


Constantine Ma





# Tonal Contrast



Arnold Newman

High Contrast  
Contrast



Garry Winogrand

Low

# Overall Light or Dark Image

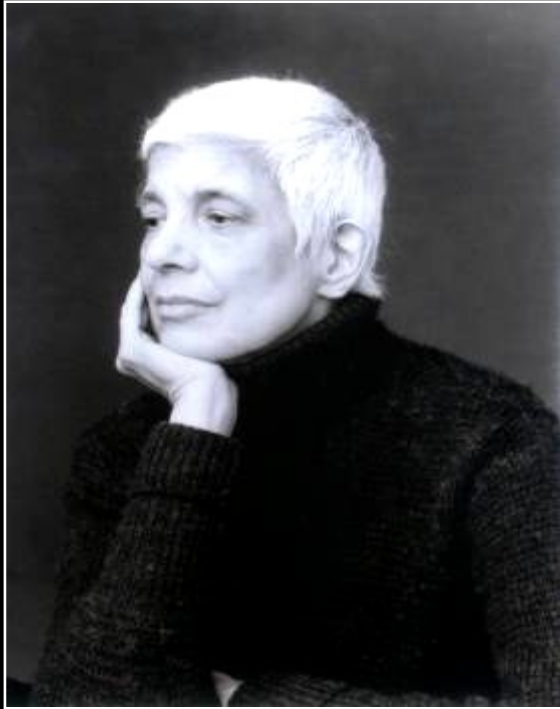


Edward Weston  
orothea Lange



D

# What creates tonal contrast?



Annie Leibovitz  
Alvarez Bravo

Object tones



Manual

Light & shadow

# Light Quality and Direction



Richard Avedon  
Halverson



Karen



Annie Leibovitz



Joel Meyerowitz

# Color Wheel



Johannes Itten

- Warm colors are lighter
- Cool colors are darker
- Color complements:  
Red & Green  
Yellow & Violet  
Orange & Blue

# Warm Colors/Cool Colors



Constantine Manos



Karen Halverson



# Color Contrast and Color Affinity

➤ Contrast of warm & cool colors



Karen Halverson

➤ Affinity of warm colors



Joell Sternfeld

# What creates color in a photograph?

- The color of objects



Ruth Fremson, The New York Times

- The color of light



Joe Cornish



# TIME



Henri Cartier-Bresson

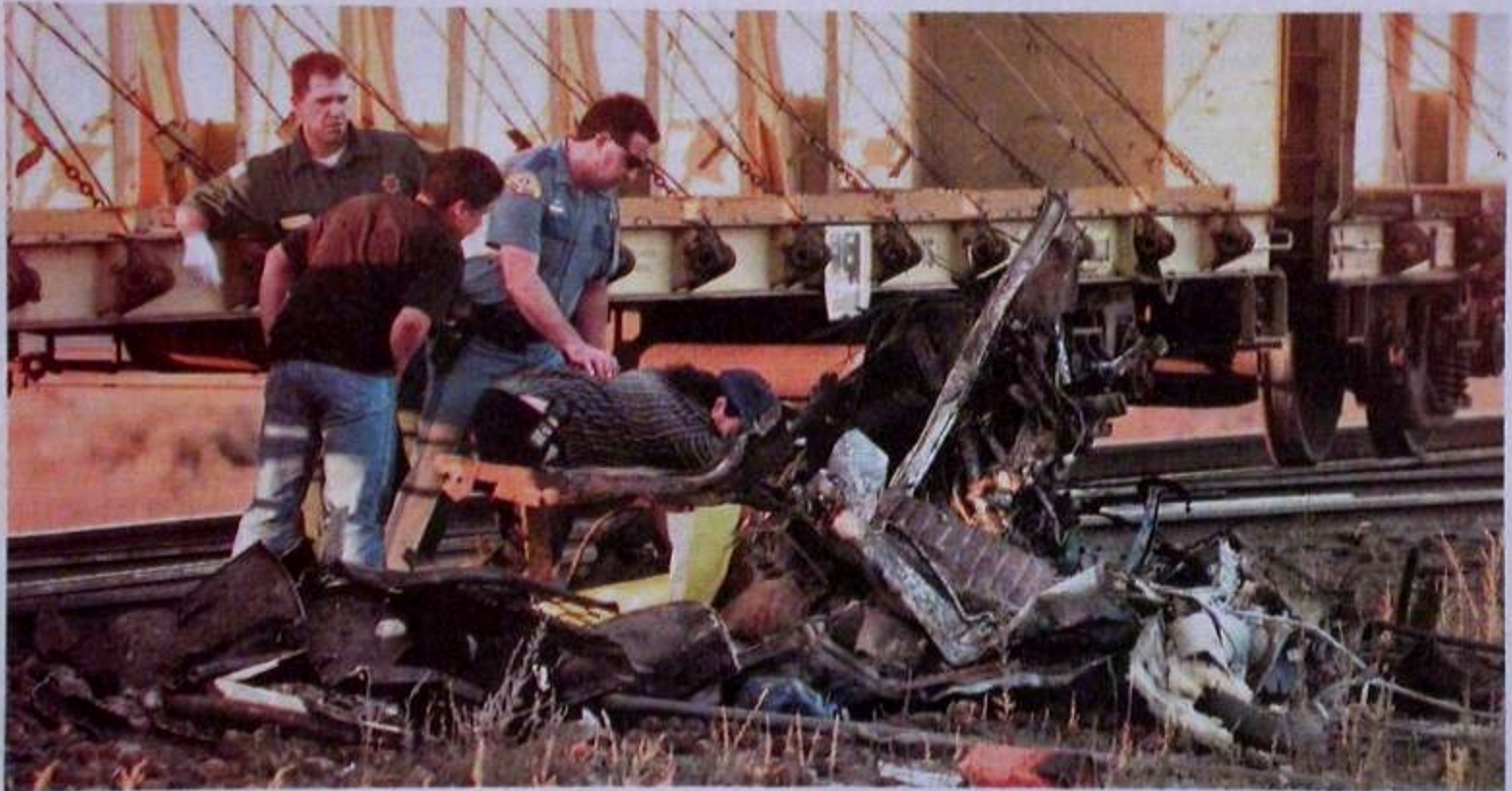
Short exposure  
can stop movement



Oliver Lake

Long exposure  
can blur movement

# Photographs and Text



Cary Best/Tri-City Herald

Blas Lopez died at this railroad crossing in Washington State in 1997. Later, a Union Pacific manager secretly replaced suspect signal parts.

## In Deaths at Rail Crossings, Missing Evidence and Silence

# And again...

## When the push for survival is a full-time job

What is it like to live on less than a dollar a day? Hundreds of millions in sub-Saharan Africa know. Their work is an endless cycle of bartering, hawking and scrounging to get by until tomorrow.



FRANCIS ORR / Los Angeles Times

**PRIMITIVE SYSTEM:** In Congo, the chukudu, a homemade wooden scooter, is the workhorse of men who ferry goods through the marketplace, earning a few cents a trip and perhaps a small handout of food from merchants.